

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A store inventory management system, said system comprising:

a computer system with access to a database of current food-related inventory for a store and a database of food-related orders for said store;

a communication interface between said computer system and a universally accessible database, wherein selections of food-related items that are absent from a plurality of homes are accessible at said computer system via said universally accessible database according to a plurality of universal identifiers each respectively associated with one of said plurality of homes; and

an inventory control element executable on said computer system for adjusting future food-related orders for said store according to current food-related inventory, ordered food-related inventory and said selections of food-related items that are absent from said plurality of homes.

2. The store inventory management system according to claim 1, wherein said inventory control element adjusts said future food-related orders according to a historical database of food-related inventory for said store accessible at said computer system.

1 3. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said selections of food-related items
3 that are absent from said plurality of homes include
4 expected dates for purchase.

1 4. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said selections of food-related items
3 that are absent from said plurality of homes are accessed
4 in an extensible mark-up language data format.

1 5. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said communication medium comprises a
3 connection to a network from which said universally
4 accessible database is accessible.

1 6. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said universally accessible database
3 directs access to a plurality of universally accessible
4 server systems according to said plurality of universal
5 identifiers.

1 7. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said inventory control element further
3 comprises:

4 means for identifying food-related items included in
5 said selections of food-related items that are absent
6 from said plurality of homes that are not included in a
7 database of current food-related inventory and said
8 database of food-related orders for said store.

1 8. The store inventory management system according to

2 claim 1, wherein said plurality of universal identifiers
3 are provided to said computer system by each of said
4 plurality of homes.

1 9. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein said inventory control element further
3 comprises:

4 means for assigning a sale offer for a particular
5 period to a particular food-related item according to
6 said selections of food-related items that are absent
7 from said plurality of homes.

1 10. The store inventory management system according to
2 claim 1, wherein purchases by each of said plurality of
3 homes are monitored in association with each of said
4 respective plurality of universal identifiers.